

**These comments were collected at the spring 2005 Central Valley public outreach meetings and will be taken into consideration by the Department as part of the efforts of its Central Valley Vision strategy. Additional comments will be collected at the fall 2005 series of public outreach meetings. For more information, please call 916 653-9901.*

Central Valley Public Outreach Meetings Compilation of Meeting Notes, spring 2005

Woodland – April 27, 2005:

- Cache Creek gravel mine areas reclaimed; possibility of being used as public park facilities.
- Link State Park's operations with non-profits and public agencies for public access/use in Yolo County.
 - Big demand for recreation (State Vehicle Recreation Areas, horses, trails, fishing, natural interpretation).
- Department of Fish and Game and U.S. Federal Fish and Wildlife Service. Look into coordinated land acquisitions, partnership opportunities, etc., i.e., North Table Mountain (owned by the Department of Fish and Game).
- Consider partnering with Native American groups for possible collaborative efforts.
- Concern stated about keeping camping experiences affordable for a diverse population (age, needs, and interests).
 - We must prepare for future generations interests, needs and facility availability.
- There is an absence in camping opportunities in Yolo County. Demand for campsites is high.
- Look at each of the 32 Central Valley State Park units for accommodating additional campsites.
- Yolo County has a high demand for off highway vehicle park facilities. Community interest is driven by skateboard parks and off highway vehicle interests.
- Suggested stories to be told:
 - Valley's rich agricultural story.
 - Agriculture story. Start with the antique farming museum in Woodland.
 - Interest in the agricultural story, including organic farming, heritage, etc. For example, possibly partner with U.C. Davis?
 - Railroad and other forms of transportation story(ies).
 - Native American stories.
 - Capay Valley, organic farming.
 - Rail (transportation) story.

- Hungry Hollow (Dunnigan Hills and Capay Valley) – African American turn-of-the-century community near Capay Valley; Bloomdale.
- Sacramento River as a transportation and commerce corridor.
- German Prisoners of War in Yolo County.
- Benicia trade (commerce) former state capitol prior to Sacramento.
- Flood control/tie with Feather and Sacramento River bypass; historical and natural resources; Fremont weir/ecosystem. “The Inland Sea”, Battling Hydrology of the Sacramento Valley.
- Benjamin Holt tractor story.
- “King of California” cotton/agriculture story.
- Old churches and cemeteries provide very interesting stories, i.e., Tremont Cemetery
- Pacific flyways/Yolo Bypass:
 - Tell the story of effective farming practices and how farmers work with wildlife resources similar to what is occurring at the Yolo Wildlife Basin.
 - Tell the story of how agriculture practices encourage and protect wildlife, e.g., Palm Tract property in San Joaquin County used as mitigation property.
- Rails-to-Trails in the Capay Valley.
- Chico to Sacramento rail easement.
- Putah Creek area (fishing and camping opportunities needed).
- Camping along the Sacramento River.
- High demand for equestrian uses, i.e., trails, staging areas, etc.
- Provide additional recreational opportunities at the Vic Fazio Wildlife Area (Yolo County).
- Agri-tourism, i.e., guest ranch program “city cowboys”.
- Motorize existing farm trails; expand their recreational use.
- Consider looking into the Northern California Power Agency which may have available land that currently is being farmed.
- Consider adding property near Frank’s Tract (1,200 acres).
- It is very important to communicate with citizens regarding interests, especially in rural areas.
 - Is the proposed project compatible?
 - Is it wanted?
 - Address public access concerns early on in the process.
- Yolo County master plan update mentioned.
 - New town of 30,000 people in Dunnigan is being proposed for development.
 - New public recreation areas needed, especially camping opportunities.

- 43-acres along the Sacramento River in West Sacramento are available, plus an additional 25 acres (adjacent) being considered by the Department for use as a possible Governor's mansion. These lands:
 - Provide native, cultural and riparian habitat.
 - Are in a central location(s) in West Sacramento/Yolo County.
 - Offer recreational opportunities (trails, river access, etc.) and natural resources.

Fresno - May 31, 2005:

- Acquire property along the Kings River. Develop public access (staging areas, small boat launch areas, multi-use trails) and connect these lands to other publicly owned properties; "String of Pearls" concept.
- Consider 13-acre Pioneer Village, near Selma:
 - Includes older houses, railroad depot circa 1872, Chinese labor camp, wagons, etc.
 - Non-profit willing to partner with school children on educational programs.
- Consider intermittent vernal pools and ponds near Selma across Highway 99.
 - Consider acquiring open space lands near Highway 99, just past Carothers.
- Consider acquiring 241-acres next to Wasama State Park (Ahwahnee Hills).
- Historic 99 corridor:
 - Be aware that a master planning effort is underway.
 - This area is identified as significant by numerous communities and state and local agencies.
 - Don't ignore or minimize the contributions of the Highway 99 corridor.
- Look at cultural landscapes:
 - Expand existing recreation facilities to accommodate the needs and interests of divergent populations.
- Consider adding/partnering with the paleontological museum at the Madera County landfill to the State Park System. Impressive paleontological find in central California.
- Cultural resources: acquire the Orange stand outside of Tulare (along Highway 99) as a cultural icon.
- Interpret the importance of Highway 99's transportation route (current and past).
- Consider the Fowler, Selma, Kingsburg Fresno corridor along Highway 99.
 - Effort underway to develop a master plan to tell the story of the original Highway 99.
- Consider properties/opportunities in the Shaver Lake area (although this area is outside the boundaries of the Central Valley Vision project).
- Consider property adjacent to Skaggs Bridge on the Madera County side.
- Consider recreation opportunities/lands along Highway 41 to Friant Dam.
- Consider river recreation (public access sites) near Kerman.

- Agricultural workers are frequent users of river recreation areas, but need public access and staging facilities. Currently inadequate parking (parking along shoulders of roads have the potential for safety issues), litter, restrooms, etc.
 - Local park agencies are struggling to keep up with demand.
- Consider re establishing a portion of Tulare Lake:
 - Tell the natural history story of this ancient (historical) lake.
 - Tulare Lake restoration is of statewide significance.
 - 95 % of riparian habitat area has been lost in the San Joaquin Valley; Tulare Lake.
 - Consider acquiring lands in the Pacific flyway (Tulare Lake). Interpret these lands and their important contributions to the Native Americans, wildlife, water, etc.
- Consider researching historic ponding areas as flyway habitat:
 - Irrigation District operated lands.
 - Developers are purchasing property.
 - These lands need to be preserved.
- Users outside of the area are overtaking local facilities.
- Concern expressed about Los Angeles population causing a strain on local services.
 - Local agencies need larger regional facilities to meet an incredible demand for growing populations.
- Lands around the San Joaquin River are undergoing tremendous growth – significant loss of riparian habitat and farm lands. Look for recreation opportunities (primarily river access) to enhance non-profit land acquisition/stewardship efforts.
- More public access needed to rivers, streams and watersheds (to serve the needs of local residents).
- There is a new non-profit group forming 501(c) (3) to support Southern San Joaquin County.
 - Existing 600-800 acre undeveloped future park, yet no money is available to develop the facilities. A suggestion was made that since the Department provided the original grant funds to acquire the property, the Department should consider taking over the development, operation and management.
 - Operation and maintenance is a big problem for non-profits and local communities.
 - Non-profits to meet the needs of an increasingly diverse community and rapidly diminishing opportunities.
- Farming/agricultural story needs to be told.
- Partnerships are essential to secure funds, facilities, and resources.
- Expand Central Valley Vision to include the Sierra Foothills and land around Wassamma Round house
 - The Sierra Foothill Conservancy could be a potential partner.
- Kings River/San Joaquin Conservancy is a successful model.
 - Volunteer efforts are the voice behind the project.

- Department staff needs to reflect the community (i.e., Hmong, Hispanic, African American, etc.) to be able to relate to State Park visitors. Our profession (employees) should look like the rest of California and we should be hiring staff from diverse populations.
 - Integrate the community into jobs bringing leadership in the environmental community.
- Concern about the Murray Hayden grant which emphasized density (i.e., Los Angeles received the majority of the funds). The needs of the rural communities are just as great as in urban areas.

Sacramento - June 1, 2005:

- Widen the Department's cultural resource emphasis to include a variety of archeological sites, pre-historic, native peoples in the Deer Creek hills area. Stories that could be told in the Deer Creek area could include ranching and agricultural uses. Also discuss how the land is being improved and protected through non-profit/public stewardship.
- Question and statements regarding Habitat Conservation Plans:
 - How much is done in conjunction with local agency planning documents?
 - Open space and agriculture lands can co-exist with threatened and endangered species.
 - The City of Sacramento partners with the Environmental Council of Sacramento (ECOS), Sacramento Open Space (SOS) on Habitat Conservation Plans.
- The American River Parkway vision is a model that could be used on a variety of Central Valley rivers.
 - Concern over large proposed Native American heritage center and potential damage to riparian habitat.
- Develop a massive trail system that connects all publicly owned and operated lands (federal,-state-and local). Also connect with the eco-tourism industry. Establish trail goals linking the coast to the Sierras (i.e., American River Parkway, Mokelumne bikeway).
- Look to the Consumnes preserve as an example of a successful land stewardship and non-profit managed area (near urban and agriculture areas). Also review the Consumnes River area for potential recreational, natural and cultural resources.
- Consider acquiring lands in the Delta region:
 - Merced River tributaries and watershed areas.
 - Delta wetlands (preserve, rehabilitate and expand). In high jeopardy by encroaching development, invasive species and over use (fishing, etc)...
 - Methods to engage the agricultural industry with environmental efforts.
 - Sacramento River (wetlands, riparian, etc.)
 - Question regarding a suitable agricultural site/facility (Visitor's Center/museum?).

- Tell the story of agriculture in this region. Discuss the Sacramento River as transportation route and how communities popped up as commerce (trade) sites, i.e., Freeport, Isleton, and Locke.
- Many opportunities in the Delta for describing working landscapes, enhancing natural and cultural resource interpretation.
- Delta region/Island(s):
- Yolo bypass (Liberty, Prospect and Egbert Pass).
- Restore and rehabilitate these lands for wildlife purposes.
- Purposes: water quality, wetlands, wildlife, recreation.
- Pacific Flyway (Tulare Lake Basin):
 - Restore the basin to its natural state.
 - Interpret the wetlands and uplands resources related to Tulare Lake.
 - Partner with local agencies and non-profit groups (i.e., Yolo Basin Wildlife).
 - Consider similar properties in east Sacramento County, not only in west Sacramento County.
 - Consider acquiring the Howard Ranch.
 - Interesting geology; rare ecological features; threatened and endangered species.
 - Consumes river basin, vernal pools, etc.
- Recreational opportunities:
 - Consider incorporating camping with local efforts.
 - Develop traditional camping facilities.
 - Develop facilities and programs from the eco-tourism perspective.
 - Visit historic Folsom and see how the bike trails connect sites with the conservancy, lands operated by the Department of Parks and Recreation, etc.
 - Consider lands vacated by the closing of landfills.
 - Yolo County landfill.
- Recreation areas in urban communities:
 - 43-acres adjacent to the Sacramento River in West Sacramento with the potential to add another 20 acres. The City of West Sacramento is interested in working with the Department on developing a walk able and desirable community.
 - Importance of open space and buffer lands to urban communities.
 - The key is to link lands and programs with trails.
 - Review the American River Parkway as a model program/facility for other statewide significant projects.

- In Stanislaus County, the demand for developed camping and day use facilities is high. Increasing numbers of Hispanics are using water areas for recreational activities resulting in a strain to local governments to properly manage these access areas.
- Conflict between use of agriculture lands and public access. How to solve these issues?
- Important to meet future demands for fishing opportunities in the Central Valley:
 - Concern expressed about immigrants understanding limited/finite fishery resources and rules and regulations regarding fishing.
- Stories to consider telling:
 - Research properties in the Clover Valley; much development pressure. Significant oak woodlands. Tell the story of this valley, from Native Americans, mining operations to natural resources. Areas in the Rocklin vicinity is like stepping back in time. Rich in Native American sites and archeological remains.
 - Sacramento River in its natural state, meandering, wetlands, etc.
 - Natural ecological story role at State Parks in the Central Valley.
 - The oil industry story.
 - Underground gardens in Fresno.
 - Highway 99 corridor.
 - Diverse populations and their migration (Native American, Hispanic, Hmong, etc.).
 - Relate to cultural heritage.
 - Gold history.
 - River dredging story.
 - Mining hydrology (i.e., Malakoff Diggings).
 - Immigrant stories.
 - China Alley (near Hanford).
 - Oklahoma worker migration/dust bowl.
 - Large scale gold dredging operations in Valley rivers.
- Research Yuba gold fields; partially protected by U.S. Bureau of Land Management as potential new state park lands.
- Interest expressed about the proposed Native American museum that will be located somewhere in the Central Valley. What areas are being considered? How will it be funded? How large?
- It is important for the Department to provide cultural, natural and recreational resources interpretation.
 - Interpretation should be high priority for the Department.
- Cultural and natural artifacts stored in West Sacramento by State Parks should be publicly displayed.
 - Cultural museum? What would its vision be? How would it be organized?

- Preserve and interpret increasingly rare vernal pools in the Sacramento region by partnering with the Department of Fish and Game, U.S. Fish and Wildlife, Wildlife Conservation Board and Sacramento Open Space.
- Investigate the possibility of a World War II aviation museum to be located in the Central Valley.
- When working on educational projects, make sure State Parks works closely with local governments.
 - We should work toward:
 - Developing a partnership with the California Department of Transportation (CalTrans).
 - Keeping farmland active.
 - Allowing public access.
 - Michigan Bar (former 15,000 member town).
 - Equestrian docent opportunities.
 - Opportunity for traditional camping facilities.
 - Connect State Parks with the City of Folsom trails.
- Tell the story of water resources and the subsequent channelization of the Delta:
- Describe how irrigated water transformed the valley to a major agricultural/commerce area.
- Water story needs to be told in both the northern and southern areas of the Central Valley.
- Interpret how rivers were used as major transportation/commerce routes.
- Tell the story of what the landscape looked like prior to settler's arrival and the massive loss of natural heritage, range and variety of wildlife.
- Work with partners to restore a piece of the former valley.
- Restore a portion of Tulare Lake, once the largest lake in California. Provide educational opportunity.
- Research Delta Islands as possible acquisition candidates:
 - The Delta provides water for the entire state.
 - Tell stories about water based transportation.
 - Delta region is on the verge of destruction (much nearby development, pollution, overuse, etc.).
 - Natural resources include oak woodlands, riparian areas and vernal pools.
 - Concern expressed about the loss of agriculture lands in the Delta.
 - Concern about the need to address (provide) buffers lands for future developments near State Park units.
- Consider expanding state park reserves to state parks. In other words, reclassify them according to their current uses.
- Consider upgrading Woodson Bridge State Park and other similar units.
 - Purchase adjacent lands to these units to be used as staging areas, trail heads, parking areas, visitor's centers, interpretive signs, etc.
- It is important to look at range lands as possible acquisition candidates.
 - Use the American River Parkway vision as the model for similar recreation/natural projects.

- Concern expressed about State Park's interested in establishing a large Native American center (will damage riparian habitat) at the confluence of the American River and Sacramento River.
- Question regarding growth limits (local government).
 - Taking this Vision to the voters in the form of an initiative. Ask them, "What do you want to lose? What do you want to protect? How much and how are we going to pay for it?"

Chico - June 8, 2005:

- Regarding acquisitions, consider looking at the small property/historic cemetery (Highway 32 and 45) where William Brown Ide's grave site is along with other pioneering families. It would help round out existing State Park unit boundaries.
- Consider acquisitions in the Gaines area. Look at West Butte City (Red Cross Property). There is a potential for gift of land and boat ramp. Look at the area west of Highway 32 that crosses the Sacramento River. River partners own the property.
- Consider securing conservation easements to be used as a buffer to park lands. The easement can also act as a linkage to other State Park and publicly owned lands. For example, Marshall Gold property and Mt. Murphy.
 - Get scenic easements for cultural relevancy.
 - Review land acquisitions from the historical perspective.
 - In times when there are limited acquisition funds, public access to park lands is important and should remain a high priority for the Department.
- Recreation facilities:
 - Trails going through historical sites need to be properly protected. There is a serious lack of funds for trail management.
 - Expand/enlarge Tehama boat launching ramps on the Sacramento River.
 - Add fishing and traditional camping facilities all along the Sacramento River.
 - Add day use facilities (ramps, staging areas, picnic areas, parking lots, restrooms and visitor's center)
 - Sacramento River from Knights landing to Red Bluff (160 river miles has only three public access areas).
 - Consider adding public access at mile 120 at Highway 144 and Highway 169.
 - Bidwell-Sacramento River State Park needs additional camping areas (RV and group sites).
 - The confluence of San Joaquin River is a significant area to consider expanding.
 - Add more fishing areas.
 - Jelly Ferry road, Redding Anderson, Cottonwood, Battle Creek.
- Dept. of Parks and Recreation at table at military base closings (Beale, Camp Pendleton) for future Dept. of Parks and Recreation State Park units. Concern expressed about Los Angeles population causing a strain on local services.
 - Local agencies need larger regional facilities to meet an incredible demand for growing populations.

- Timing and sense of urgency to preserve, protect, interpret before the resource is lost.
 - Proximity to urban areas.
- Agriculture/farm lands with natural lands needs to be addressed.
- People need to know why it is good for land to be converted to natural lands.
- Common ground – interpretive element in the general plan process needed.
- Partnership with federal, state, local, non profit organizations.
 - Coordinate public access sites and land owners/responsible agencies will result in an overall tax payer savings.
 - Sacramento River Conservation Area Forum happy to provide coordination of agencies partnership efforts.
 - There is no place for the public to go to get answers, i.e., joint run visitor center within key geographic area.
- Expand Sacramento River public access and recreation staging areas. There is a high demand for public access. Research potential access areas between Meridian to the Tillsdale Weir. Research the Butte City area for potential public access/staging sites on the Sacramento River.
 - Valuable natural riparian areas along the Sacramento River need to be protected and interpreted.
- Research potential cooperative partnership opportunities with other public land agencies.
 - Consider acquisitions that provide potential for cooperative arrangements.
 - Assess Central Valley state park units for their general plan component. Do all of the 32 units have general plans? Those parks that have an existing general plan are more likely to have cooperative agreements with non-profit land stewardship groups and organizations. They can apply for grant funding. Get moving on those that do not have general plans. More resources need to be put into the general planning process to identify specific projects that non-profits can locate funding.
 - Money needs to be put on the table by State Parks.
 - State Parks should speak to legislators about on-going State Parks funding needs. Get a unified message delivered to the Capitol that State Parks need funds to acquire, operate and maintain Central Valley park sites.
 - Develop a stable, permanent funding source for State Parks.
 - Build an acquisition and development strategy for the next 20 years.
 - Duplication of services/activities. Look at the larger picture to see which public agency is best able to manage that land/facility (general planning process).
- Cultural Corridor in Chico. There are three parallel trails: J Bidwell trail, Humboldt Road and the Ruts (wagon train ruts) trail. Also the rock wall is of historical interest to the Department.
 - Area is in high jeopardy of being developed. There are extensive wildflowers and other natural resources.
- Organize a Native American focus group.
 - Loss of finite Native American areas highly valued by indigenous people.

- Native Americans are an under represented population. Stronger emphasis needs to be placed on protecting and preserving Native American ways. There are many undocumented Native American sites in the Sacramento Valley. It is important to develop a preservation, protection, and identification process.
- Department of Parks and Recreation should consider facilitating discussions with Native American groups and developing cooperative agreements with tribes to tell their story.
 - Funding needs to be provided to make these discussions happen.
 - The public needs to be aware of the process.
- Joint partnership between Native American tribes, Department of Parks and Recreation, and C.S.U., Chico to jointly manage public interface at various state park units.
- Provide Native American interpretation opportunities in camping areas.
- Work with Native American groups to host jointly sponsored public events, programs and other educational opportunities.
- Need to tell the native stories at parallel/multiple sites.
- Tell the stories of how the Sacramento River was used as a major transportation route.
 - From the confluence of the Sacramento River to Red Bluff.
 - How the river interfaced with the agriculture industry.
- Tell the story of Hispanics, pre Europeans; Spaniards, Mexican-Americans.
- Stories to tell:
 - Feather, Sacramento Yuba Rivers.
 - 120° meridian.
 - Agriculture story needs to be told for Northern. Sacramento Valley.
 - Water alteration story. Draining to agriculture lands and the subsequent loss of important natural resources.
- Discussion related to concern with Bidwell State Historic Park and its on-going maintenance.
 - Long-term staff time, potential encroachment, the integrity of the mansions grounds and facilities are in jeopardy.
 - How to best support the Department regarding problems, funding, staff time, advocacy, legislative actions?
- Lasting conflict with preservation of resources with recreational uses. California State Parks' job is to determine reasonable use.
- Discussion related to the Departments' involvement with the State Lands Commission:
 - Consideration of an island in the Sacramento River; adjacent to U.S. Bureau of Land Management lands.
 - Transients use of this area is causing operational concerns, such as, trash etc.
 - Valuable riparian/natural habitat needs to be protected.

- California State Parks needs to be at table discussing military base closings (Beale, Camp Pendleton) for future Dept. of Parks and Recreation State Park units.
- Timing and sense of urgency to preserve, protect, interpret before the resource is lost.
 - Proximity to urban areas.